EXHIBIT 35

Jennifer Kennedy February 11, 2025

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1
                IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
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                          HOUSTON DIVISION
     FOOD NOT BOMBS HOUSTON
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     ET AL.,
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                                §
                                   Case No. 4-24-cv-338
                                S
     PLAINTIFFS,
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                                S
                                   (Consolidated Case No.
                                §
                                   4:23-cv-1206
     v.
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                                S
     CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS,
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     DEFENDANT.
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                         ORAL DEPOSITION OF
                   CAPTAIN JENNIFER LYNN KENNEDY
10
                          FEBRUARY 11, 2025
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          ORAL DEPOSITION OF CAPTAIN JENNIFER LYNN KENNEDY,
     produced as a witness at the instance of the Plaintiffs
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17
     and duly sworn, was taken in the above styled and
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     numbered cause on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, from 9:09
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     a.m. to 3:51 p.m., before DONNA QUALLS, Notary Public in
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     and for the State of Texas, Notary ID No. 12161359,
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     reported by computerized stenotype machine, at the
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     offices of Houston City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby Street,
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     4th Floor, Houston, Texas, pursuant to the Federal Rules
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     of Civil Procedure, and any provisions stated on the
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     record or attached hereto.
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     FOR THE PLAINTIFF, FOOD NOT BOMBS AND BRANDON WALSH:
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1	A. Yes.
2	Q. Correctly, sorry?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. And so the keyword here is "conduct a food
5	service event without advanced written consent of the
6	public or private property owner."
7	And so could you look at 20-251,
8	definitions?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. And so Section 20-251 defines food service
11	event as "each instance in which charitable food
12	services are provided to more than five individuals"; is
13	that right?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. So why what interest does it serve to
16	criminalize serving five individuals versus six or seven
17	individuals?
18	MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.
19	Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Let me rephrase the question.
20	Why is the limit in this ordinance
21	providing charitable food services to more than five
22	individuals as opposed to some other number of
23	individuals?

A. I don't know.

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Q. Okay. So the next definition -- so food



service event restricts each instance in which charitable food services are provided to more than five individuals.

And then the definition right above food service event defines charitable food services. And it says "Charitable food services provided means providing food without charge, payment, or other compensation to benefit those in need at an outdoor location not owned, leased, or controlled by the individual or organization providing food."

Did I read that right?

A. Yes.

- Q. So the -- I have a couple of questions about this definition. So would this definition encompass birthday parties?
- A. I guess, if you could explain that little kids are in need of pizza, then possibly. It might be a stretch.
- Q. Well, I guess that's actually a good point.

 Let me ask you -- within the meaning of this ordinance,
 what does "those in need" mean?
- A. Well, if you look at one of the whereas statements, the city council recognizes those who are unable to provide food for themselves. So my interpretation is those in need would be those who are



unable to provide food for themselves.

- Q. And you just read from the second whereas paragraph on the first page, right?
 - A. Correct.

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Q. So those in need means those unable to provide food for themselves?

MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.

- A. That would be my interpretation.
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Okay. How is an officer enforcing this ordinance supposed to determine whether a person meets that definition of "in need"?
- A. We enforce whether or not those conducting the events have permission from the property owner, not whether or not they're serving people that are in need. So we are not asking everybody that's in line if they're able or unable to provide food for themselves. I think that would be...
- Q. But does the ordinance prohibit serving free food to those who are not in need?
- A. I'm not sure. I guess it depends on how you interpret the definitions.
- Q. Okay. Well -- so let's go back to the definitions, then. So Section 20-252, the use of property without consent prohibited makes it unlawful for any organization or individual to sponsor or conduct



a food services event on public property without the advanced written consent of the public property owner, right?

A. Uh-huh.

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- Q. And then Section 20-251 defines a food service event as each instance in which charitable food services are provided to more than five individuals, right?
 - A. Right.
- Q. And then charitable food services means providing food without charge, payment, or other compensation to benefit those in need at an outdoor location." And then it continues.

And so did I read the first part of that definition right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And so I guess my question is to violate Section 20-252 the person needs to be conducting a food service event which is defined as providing food without charge, payment, or compensation to benefit those in need.

Do you agree with that?

A. Well, you just read the definition of charitable food service event. But I get where you're getting at. I would say that it is aimed more at the intention of the food service provider that their



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intention is to benefit those who they think may be in need, not to -- not that we have to prove that everybody in line is in need. It's the intent of the food service provider.

- Q. And that makes sense. I think my question, then, is how does an officer determine under this ordinance the intent to benefit those in need of the person or group providing charitable food services?
- A. You could look at -- you could speak with the food service providers. You could look at their online websites that explain that their purpose is to help people in need. I think just generally it can be assumed that, if a food service provider, an organization, religious group is out providing food, the intent is that they're trying to benefit those that are in need.
- Q. That's interesting. Can you say more about that? Why is it safe to assume that a person serving food for free out in the public is doing so to benefit those in need?
- A. I'm just thinking from, you know, personal perspective. I don't know that the organizations that are going to spend the time to collect food, organize volunteers to go help people that aren't in need. You know what I'm saying.



Q. Yeah.

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A. Like just the word "help" kind of infers that you are helping those in need because people that are not in need doesn't necessarily need help.

Q. Yeah. And it takes a lot of work to, like you said, assemble all the food and find a public place to distribute it.

Would you agree with that?

- A. I've never personally done that. I would assume so.
- Q. Okay. So the "to benefit those in need" language in the charitable food service definition means the person conducting the food event is trying to benefit those in need, right? I'm just trying to make sure I understood what -- what you said.

MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.

- A. Yeah, that's my interpretation.
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Okay.
- A. I mean, we can read it as it is in the definition. Now, finding meanings behind specific words within the definition is something that probably needs to be answered by an attorney who wrote the definitions.
- Q. Yeah. And so the next piece of this definition I'm curious about is "without charge, payment, or other compensation to benefit those in need."



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property owner but without participating in the program established by this article shall not be deemed in violation of this article."

Did I read that right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you agree that this means that participation in the certification program outlined in Section 20-254 is not a prerequisite to conducting charitable food service events?
 - A. That's correct. It's voluntary.
 - Q. It's a voluntary program, right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And so to conduct charitable food service events, and organization is not required to undertake the certification process that's outlined in 20-254?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Could you turn to page 5 of the ordinance? This is COH 024086. I'd like to discuss just briefly Section 20-257. That's the use of city parks and other city property for food service events.

So looking at the first sentence, it says "The director of the parks and recreation department shall develop rules, regulations, and criteria for the use of properties for food service events and shall maintain a list of park properties with areas approved



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for food service events."

Did I read that right?

- A. You left out the word "park."
- Q. Oh, sorry.
- A. But yes, in general you read it correctly.
- Q. Okay. But in essence, this first sentence gives a director of the parks and recreation department the authority to develop rules, regulations, and criteria for the use of park properties for charitable feedings?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And does the parks department currently have any approved parks for charitable feeding?
 - A. No.
- Q. Okay. And we'll get to that more in a second, but does the director of parks and recreation have any guidance, rules, regulations, or criteria for the use of parks' property for charitable feeding?
- A. Likely so because in -- back in 2016 when we used to use the parks, I've never seen them. It says they shall develop rules, regulations, and criteria. So I'm assuming at one point we did have those when we were utilizing the parks.
- Q. But now no parks' property is approved for charitable food service events?



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Α.	That's	correct.
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Q. Okay. And then the second sentence right after the one I just read says "The director of health and human services department shall develop rules, regulations, and criteria for the use of other city property for food service events and shall maintain a list of such properties with areas approved for service events."

Did I read that right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. So this is a similar provision. It gives the director of health and human services the authority to develop rules, regulations, and criteria for the use of other city property for food service events?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. So the director of the health department has authority over all non-parks' properties?

MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.

- A. If it is city property.
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Okay.
- A. Not all others but --
- Q. That's a good point. So the health department has authority over whether to authorize charitable feedings at all non-parks city property?

MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.



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- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) And that's the list on the health department's charitable feeding website?
 - A. I believe there's a list on the website.
- Q. Okay. I just have one other question about Section 20-257. So does the mayor fit into this approval process at all? Like, say, for example, the parks department wanted to approve a park. Could the mayor tell them to reverse course and not approve the location?
- A. I would say that's probably within the mayor's scope of authority, yes.
- Q. Okay. Now, we've talked thus far about the meaning of the ordinance, but I wanted to discuss these terms in context of a particular police report. And I will mark this as Exhibit 17.

(Exhibit No. 17 was marked.)

- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Captain Kennedy, do you recognize this document?
 - A. No.
- Q. So it says at the -- so this is a Houston Police Department -- is this a police report?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And if you look at the top, it says "Offense Report Title. Feeding homeless without" -- well "w/o



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differential response team that handles those quality of life or civility complaints.

- Q. And was the differential response team one of the teams that you directed as lieutenant in the Downtown Division?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And so did you direct which officers of the DRT team would patrol Food Not Bombs events?
- A. No. I never specifically addressed anything Food Not Bombs. It was if we had charitable food service events that were being conducted that violated the ordinance.
- Q. And -- okay. But -- so you then personally were directing officers to go to charitable food service events at the Central Library?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And was it routinely the same officers, or how -- how was that team staffed?
- A. So we developed basically a schedule of who would work because it was in the evenings after these officers' regular shift. So it would be officers from the differential response team, some officers from patrol, some officers from the crime suppression team.
- Q. Okay. Now, the listed suspect on -- if you turn to page 4, it says "The listed suspect James Foster



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and	the	organi	izat	cion	Food	Not	Bombs	cond	ducted	а	food	
serv	rice	event	by	serv	/ing	indiv	viduals	s on	proper	cty	withou	t
cons	ent.	. "										

Do you see that first sentence of the third full paragraph?

- A. Yes.
- Q. So how did the officer know that it was Food Not Bombs?
- A. They generally wear shirts, and they have banners. They make sure that you know that they are Food Not Bombs.
- Q. Okay. And then how did the officers determine who to cite among the Food Not Bombs individuals?
- A. So they would ask those feeding who would be receiving the citation. And then the organization or those volunteers would get together and decide who would receive that citation. Generally, that is how it happened.
- Q. And then the next sentence after the one we just read said "We observed the listed suspect standing at the end of the line, handing out approximately 100 meals to the homeless."

Did I read that right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. So how did the officer determine whether the



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- A. These officers with the differential response team, they know just about every single person who is homeless in downtown. They interact with them on a daily basis, and so they know very well who the homeless population is.
- Q. Is the DRT team the one -- the officers who drive around and help people with identification?
 - A. No.
 - Q. What unit is that?
- A. That's the HOT unit, the homeless outreach team. So the HOT unit is more of an outreach unit. And the differential response team is more of an enforcement side. Differential response team, downtown every day, goes to the different encampments and other areas to enforce civility ordinances.
- Q. And so DRT then also does encampment like, if there's a homeless encampment, that they will remove the encampment from the public or private property?
 - A. They are involved in that, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And --
- MS. ANDERSON: Is this a good time to take a break?
- MR. FIFE: Yeah, actually.
 - (Recess from 10:15 a.m. to 10:29 a.m.)



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can tell you Allen's Landing definitely does not. It's basically just a park underneath a bridge along the bayou. There are no restrooms there.

- Q. So I want to clear that up, then. So earlier when you were describing how the City selected these locations in 2012 through 2016, you mentioned bathrooms, parking, and handwashing, right?
 - A. Right, yeah.
- Q. But what you were referring to were the more recent regulations enacted by the health department?
 - A. Yes, that's correct.
 - Q. And do you know when those were enacted?
 - A. I don't know.
- Q. Would sometime late 2022, early 2023 sound right?
 - A. I don't know.
- Q. Okay. And so at the time of this list, which was 2012 to 2016, do you know if the parks department had comparable regulations to what you described in terms of bathrooms, parking, and handwashing?
- A. Some of those. But like as I said, Allen's Landing, there's no bathrooms, there's no handwashing stations. So I don't know. I'd have to go through and look at each park specifically. I know city parks all have a set of standard rules that must be followed that



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are	listed.	But	outside	of	that,	I	don't	know.
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- Q. So were you aware of any criteria that the City applied to all of these locations from 2012 to 2016?
 - A. No.
- Q. Are you aware of any written guidance from 2012 to 2016 identifying what criteria the City would use to approve or disapprove public property for charitable food service events?
 - A. No.
- Q. Now, we were -- so the category we were just discussing was City-owned property locations approved from 2012 to 2016, right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Now, the next list or -- sorry. The next category in these responses was food and housing programs from 2019 to 2022, right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So what were -- were any public property locations approved for charitable food service events from 2016 to 2019?
 - A. I don't know.
- Q. Do you see any listed in the City's interrogatory responses?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Could you name a location that was approved



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1	for charitable food service events a public property
2	location that was approved for charitable food service
3	events from 2016 to '19?
4	A. No.
5	Q. And I just want to confirm you also said you
6	were unaware of let me put the question this way.
7	Were any locations approved from 2016 to
8	'19 for charitable food service events?
9	A. Not that I know of.
10	Q. Do you know if the City made a decision to not
11	approve any locations from 2016 to '19?
12	A. No, I don't know that. I don't believe there
13	was any enforcement between 2016 to 2019 of the
14	ordinance.
15	MR. FIFE: Could we take a five-minute
16	break?
17	THE REPORTER: Off the record at 11:28.
18	(Recess from 11:28 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
19	THE REPORTER: Back on the record at 12:30.
20	Q. (BY MR. FIFE) So, Captain Kennedy, before we
21	left for lunch, we were discussing what locations, if
22	any, the City had approved for charitable food service
23	events from 2015 to '19. And that's page 4 of this
24	City's answers and objections to our interrogatories.
25	We agreed before the break that there were no locations



know what his role was at the time of this e-mail?

A. No.

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Q. But safe to say he was an employee of the parks and rec department?

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- A. Yes.
- O. Based on the PRD next to his e-mail?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. Now, looking at the message,

 Ms. Longoria writes "I understand that all charitable
 feedings have been canceled until further notice."

 Do you see that?
 - A. I do.
- Q. Okay. Do you know or does the City know whether Ms. Longoria was correct that as of July 8th, 2016, all charitable feedings had been canceled until further notice?
- A. I do know that the feedings that were taking place at the parks in 2016 -- I don't know the exact date. I do know those feedings at the park were canceled. There was serious safety concerns. There was a huge increase in the kush among the homeless population that was creating a lot of issues for the parks. And I believe the City felt like it was no longer safe to host these -- or to allow these events to be hosted on the park property. And so they were



canceled.

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- So -- so in 2016, the parks and recreation department decided to suspend all charitable feeding activities on parks' property due to the kush and issues that kush was causing in the parks?
- I don't know if it was parks and recs department that decided that, but the City decided that.
 - Ο. Okay.
 - Α. Yes.
- And so -- and you can just see here for Ο. completeness, Mr. Joe Turner echoes what you had said that -- and he writes "They have all been temporary suspended while the mayor works through the kush issue first in our parks and public areas. And then second, we be working to set up discussions with the faith-based organizations on how to best provide services to those in need, not just feedings."

Do you see that?

- Α. Yes.
- So you discussed the first part in your answer 0. which was issues related to kush. But at the time, was the City also trying to work with faith-based organizations on how to best provide services to those in need?
 - Α. I believe so. And right around this time also



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in 2016 is when Rapid Rehousing Program began. And so it was likely an effort to collaborate with the organizations that were conducting the feedings to offer those, like, housing services along with the feedings.

- Q. Uh-huh. And was that desire to work with faith-based organizations on how to collaboratively implement the Rapid Rehousing Program, was that also a basis for suspending charitable food activities in the parks?
- A. No. I believe that the primary basis was just safety concerns.
 - Q. Safety concerns related to kush?
 - A. Right.
- Q. Okay. So at the time of this e-mail, all charitable food service activities in public parks had been suspended, right?
 - A. I believe so, yes.
- Q. Was there a plan or criteria in place at which point the city parks could be reauthorized as locations for charitable food service activities?
- A. Not when it was canceled. I don't think they had a plan in place to reopen. When it was canceled, it was canceled for safety issues. Then I'm assuming as it says here the mayor was going to work with the organizations to kind of move forward.



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Q. So at the time of this e-mail, the the Cit
had suspended charitable food activities on public
parks, but at the time there was not a plan to
reauthorize those charitable food service activities?

- A. I believe so.
- O. Now, what is kush?
- A. It's synthetic marijuana.
- Q. At the time, was it illegal?
- A. Yes. So there was -- I don't know -- have the exact dates as far as legislation. The issue with kush and synthetic marijuana is there are several different chemical formulations, right? And so their court system was having a difficult time keeping up with the different chemical formulations and having legislation to list all chemical formulations as controlled substances that is illegal.
- Q. And was legislation prohibiting these various chemical iterations eventually passed?
- A. Yes. Now, there are -- this is somewhat out of my scope as I'm not a narcotics officer or, you know, a scientist. However, synthetic marijuana -- I mean, it is illegal, but there are different -- I mean you can come up with different formulations that would then need to be introduced into legislation.
 - Q. So is kush just -- and again, I appreciate that



or what was fear of having people who just smoked kush attend charitable food service events?

A. I think the fear is that the City, you know, allowing this to happen on public property. But now that we have this increase in kush that often leads to violent incidents, we don't have the police officers available to then staff all these parks to ensure that everybody that's has taken part in these feeding events are safe.

So I think it was more of a matter of ensuring that people are safe. And if the City did not have the resources available to have police officers at every single park during every single feeding, it's not safe.

Q. Yeah. So at the time, you said it was hard to determine whether -- the courts were having a hard time determining whether the kush was composed of chemicals that were at the time illegal. Is that a correct understanding of your testimony?

MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.

- A. So the courts had a hard time keeping up --
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Okay.
- A. -- with the legislation to make all of the different types or all of the different formulations illegal and within that controlled substance.



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Q.	So	when	HPD	found	s	omeone	who	was	on	drugs
acting a	aggre	essive	ely,	how d	id	they 1	respo	ond?		
		MS.	ANI	DERSON	:	Object	cion	; foi	cm.	

- A. It really depends on the situation.
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Well, let me put it this way. What did the Houston Police Department do, or what did the City do in response to the presence of kush beyond suspending charitable food service activities?
- A. So we -- I, mean several arrests were made for individuals with possession of synthetic marijuana. That would get tested at the drug lab. A lot of times, we responded to disturbances involving the homeless population and found that somebody was in possession of kush or under the influence of kush. And so it really just depended on the situation as to how we handled it.
- Q. Yeah. And in -- and so is kush currently a -- as big of a problem now as it was in 2016?
- A. No, it does not seem like it's as big as a problem?
 - Q. And why is that?
- A. I don't know the exact reasoning. Probably a combination of enforcement, legislation, ease of access. Used to you could get some of this synthetic marijuana formulations from gas stations, things like that. But there's been a lot more enforcement, I think in that



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area to where it's not as easily accessible. In the beginning, it was very easily accessible, and I think that's what caused such a dangerous situation.

- And so at the time in 2016 when there were 0. charitable food service events, were there officers at those events on a regular basis in the parks?
 - No, I don't believe so. Α.
- Okay. And I just want to make sure I Ο. understood this that you -- that the City did not have evidence at the time that organizations sponsoring charitable food service events were distributing kush? MS. ANDERSON: Objection; form.
- The charitable food service Ο. (BY MR. FIFE) groups weren't the ones who are supplying kush?
 - Α. I don't believe the City thought that.
- Are there any plans to reauthorize charitable food service activities in public parks today?
- I don't know if that conversation is happening Α. at the mayor's office or not. But as far as I know, no.
- And you do -- and testified earlier that currently no public parks are authorized for charitable food service activities?
 - Correct. Α.
- Is there any criteria in place that Ο. Okay. could allow someone to conduct a charitable food service



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activity at	а	public	park?
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A. No, there's no locations at public parks that are authorized right now. So any criteria wouldn't matter if it's not an authorized location.

Did I answer that?

- Q. Yeah. And I think you said that there are no criteria in place right now because no public parks are authorized as charitable food service locations?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Does the mayor's office have the authority to reauthorize city parks as locations for charitable food service activities?
 - A. I would assume so.
- Q. And can you turn back with me to Exhibit 21.

 And could you look at page 4? That's the second half to the City's answers, to Interrogatory No. 25. It says food -- the next category it lists are food and housing programs from 2019 to 2022.

Do you see that?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And it lists the temporary Navigation center and navigation center at 2903.

Do you see that?

- A. Yes.
- Q. From 2019 to 2022, were any other City of



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Houston-	-owned	properties	approved	for	charitable	food
service	activ	ities?				

A. No. And these were not referring to charitable food service activities. These are just City of Houston-sponsored programs like City of Houston locations where feeding was occurring. So these were not food service events as described in the ordinance that are outdoors by charitable food service providers.

Do you understand?

- Q. I think so. Let me make sure. So when it says "food and housing program location," it's not referring to locations for charitable food service activities within the meaning of the ordinance. It's referring to locations where people in need can get food?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And so -- are the navigation centers public property?
 - A. Yes, I believe so.
- Q. Okay. And so as we've discussed, I represent Food Not Bombs, right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Could Food Not Bombs have -- Food Not Bombs Houston, could they have conducted a charitable food service activity at one of these navigation centers?
 - A. No.



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	Q.	And	so	beyond	these	navig	ation	centers	, V	vere
there	e an	y otł	ner	publicl	y-own	ed loca	ations	approv	ed	for
char	itab	le fo	ood	service	event	cs?				

- A. When?
- O. From 2019 to 2022?
- A. Not that I know of.
- Q. And so we have -- I apologize. I seem to have lost my copy.

So we discussed before lunch that there were no locations listed here from 2016 to 2019, right?

- A. Correct.
- Q. And I think you said you weren't aware of any?
- A. Right.
- Q. And then the next piece of the answer -- or the next category -- do you want to take a second and look?
 - A. No, you're good.
- Q. And the next category, 2019 to 2022, you testified that these navigation centers were not locations for charitable food service activities within the meaning of the ordinance, right?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So from 2016 to 2022, were you -- are you aware of any public property in which a group could sponsor or conduct a charitable food service event?
 - A. No.



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1			_	know	why	that	was	the	case?
2	Α.	No.	_						

- Q. Do you know of any criteria in which the City made that decision to not have any approved locations from 2016 to 2022?
- A. I think the -- I don't know if you're referring to the criteria to ending the ones in 2016, like we discussed, at the parks for safety reasons.
 - O. Are there any other criteria you're aware of?
 - A. No.
- Q. And are you -- and -- so from 2016 to 2022, were there any criteria by which charitable food service activities could resume at publicly owned locations?
 - A. No.
- Q. So thus far we've been discussing approval via the charitable feeding ordinance, the ordinance challenged in this case. But the City also has ordinances that regulate special events and street functions and parades, right?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So if someone wanted to sponsor a parade or a 5K, they would go to the mayor's office of special events and apply those ordinances, right?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. So could a group that wanted to conduct



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charitable food service activities instead of going through the ordinance challenge in this case, could they just apply for a special event permit?

- A. I don't believe so if it violates the ordinance.
 - Q. Okay. I'll mark this as Exhibit 23. (Exhibit No. 23 was marked.)
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) And -- so this is at the bottom half of the page. This is an e-mail from Mr. Ricardo Magdaleno sent on August 1st, 2023. And the subject of the e-mail is homeless feedings.

Do you see that?

- A. I do.
- Q. Now, Mr. Magdaleno just in essence writes exactly what you just said which is -- he said "I was walking by the library plaza and saw this sign on the fence. The sign posted by HPD is clear-cut and specific on all events with the intent of feeding the homeless."

Do you see those first two sentences?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And the last sentence says "If you have a producer that insists on a special event permit, we must deny the event and ask them to follow the instructions stated per the policy in place."

Did I read that right?



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A	. I'm	n assuming	that	was	in	coordination	with	the
health	depar	tment.						

- Q. And have you ever seen this response -- or had you ever seen this statement that Mayor Parker gave Food Not Bombs Houston permission to use the Central Library?
 - A. No.
- Q. And you said earlier that currently Food Not Bombs does not have authorization from the city to conduct charitable food service events at the Central Library?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. So when was the permission revoked?
- A. Well, I would say that it was in February of 2023 when they received warning that they were no longer going to be able to feed there and that they have to feed at 61 Riesner, so before any sort of enforcement action took place.
- Q. Okay. Do you know -- based on what you said, I think I know this answer. But are you aware when this newsletter was taken down off of the City of Houston web page?
 - A. No.
- Q. And then in February of 2023 when Food Not Bombs permission was revoked, do you know who made that decision?



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Α.	. No	, not	spe	cifica	ally.	I]	know		it's	s not	tha	.t
their p	permis	ssion	was	revok	æd.	It'	s the	e or	ıly a	approv	zed	
locatio	on was	s goi	ng to	be 6	51 Rie	esne	r. S	So t	here	e was	nev	er
a he	ere yo	our p	ermis	ssion	is he	ereb	y rev	70ke	ed.	It's	as	of
this da	ate, t	this	is go	oing t	o be	the	only	z ar	prov	7ed		
locatio	on.											

- Q. And the only approved location was 61 Riesner Street, right?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So was there a reason why the Central Library was no longer going to be allowed -- let me put that differently.

Why was the Central Library no longer going to be authorized as a charitable food service event location?

- A. There were significant issues and safety concerns coming from the Central Library. And the City also found that a coordination of efforts among those that participate in the food service events would be mutually beneficial to not only those who provide the food but those who receive the food as well as the property where the feeding occurs.
- Q. So if Food Not Bombs at the time wanted to use another location for its charitable food service events, were there any criteria by which they could select a



different public property location?

A. No.

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- Q. It was just 61 Riesner Street, right?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And before you mentioned that, in February of 2023, the health department issued guidelines outlining sufficient trash reciprocals, handwashing stations, and 24/7 porta potty access as requirements for any public property where charitable feeding would occur?
- A. Well, it's -- yes. So it's access during a food service event and available 24/7. That does not mean that bathrooms have to be unlocked 24/7. It means that they have to be available for use 24/7. And then, basically open during a food service event. If you read the ordinance, it's clear in there. But yes. So right.
- Q. Okay. So to -- so it's handwashing stations, sufficient trash reciprocals, and porta potties for use during food service?
 - A. And parking.
 - Q. And parking?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Now, if Food Not Bombs had identified another location, another publicly owned location that met those four criteria, could they have used it for a charitable food service event?



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A. If they received permission from the public or
private owner. But if it was a public property, then
that would be something that had to be approved, you
know, by the City. So if it was a private place then,
yes, absolutely.

- Q. But in terms public property, a location with those four criteria we discussed would not necessarily be approved for the charitable food service event. They would still need to ask the City for permission?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. If a location had those four elements that we discussed -- the porta potty, handwashing, parking, and trash reciprocals -- would the City approve that location, or would they still just say 61 Riesner Street?

MR. SOH: Objection; form.

MR. FIFE: You can answer.

- A. I think that could be a possibility. But it would also have to be, you know, something where the City looks at the safety in providing, having, you know, resources as far as being able to provide officers for security so.
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Now, so previously we discussed 61 Riesner Street as an approved -- or actually we were just discussing 61 Riesner Street as an approved public



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A. There were several reasons -- its close proximity to the library where people were already being fed. It's a half a mile walk. It's well lit. The sidewalks are actually brand new from McKinney and all along Bagby until you get to Capital. There's no mobility issues with any of the sidewalks, no safety concerns.

There's one intersection that would have to be crossed as a protected intersection that's frequented all the time especially by individuals going to the Hobby Center. It's in very close proximity to the Bayou Place which is a location where we know that many of the individuals that are participating in the feeding. That's where they sleep at night as well, close to the Beacon which is another major homeless provider downtown.

We also had the ability there to provide not only the minimum of ten parking spots, trash can receptacles, porta potties, and handwashing stations, but we have electrical outlets available for people. We have portable lighting that was available. And we have police nearby. And then also police that would be on-site. So it's a safe location.

- Q. Who was involved in that decision?
- A. I remember having a conversation with Chief



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Satterwhite about considering 61 Riesner as a location.

I believe he was involved, heavily involved, in that

decision. He asked my opinion at one point. That's why

we spoke about it. I thought that was a great location.

I'm not sure who made the final decision as for it being

Riesner.

- Q. Did Chief Satterwhite speak with the mayor about 61 Riesner Street?
 - A. I believe so.
- Q. Okay. And you mentioned the quality of the sidewalks, how close it is to the Central Library, lighting, proximity to locations where homeless individuals spend a lot of time, and safety of 61 Riesner Street. Were those -- who came up with those criteria or factors?
- A. Those weren't criteria or factors. They were just benefits of that location.
- Q. So were there any written criteria or factors that the City had to consider?
- A. No. Nothing outside of what the health department had already created -- basically the parking restrictions, you know, minimum of ten parking spaces, sufficient trash reciprocals, portable restrooms, and handwashing stations available during a food service event and available 24/7.



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Q. And so I understand the benefits of the
benefits of that you've described for 61 Riesner
Street, but I want to know why the City decided to have
only one approved location as opposed to having multiple
properties, public properties that could be used for
charitable food service events.

A. Well, as of now, there was a huge group of individuals that were receiving food downtown. So we knew that it needed to be local to downtown for the groups that were receiving food could easily get to, right?

And as far as ensuring officers for safety and allocating resources, I think it was the initial ideas. Let's start with this one location because we already know it's going to be successful in feeding the same amount of people that were already being fed at the library.

- Q. Has this, since 61 Riesner became the sole location in 2023, has the City created or authorized charitable food service events at more public properties?
 - A. No.
- Q. And so I'm not sure what you just said answered my original question which is why did the City decide to create one location as the exclusive place for



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1	charitable food service events instead of how it had in
2	2012 through 2016 approved multiple locations throughout
3	Houston?
4	A. Well, the City does not have the resources to
5	staff every single park to conduct charitable food
6	events in a safe manner.
7	Q. What other locations did the City consider
8	or let me put that differently.
9	So in authorizing and creating an exclusive
10	location for charitable food service events on city
11	property, were there other locations that the city
12	considered besides 61 Riesner Street?
13	A. I'm not sure.
14	Q. I will mark this as Exhibit 27.
15	(Exhibit No. 27 was marked.)
16	MR. SOH: So I assume we're done with 26.
17	MR. FIFE: Yes.
18	Q. (BY MR. FIFE) This is an e-mail thread
19	between well, several members of the mayor's staff.
20	And do you know what HCD means?
21	A. Where is that at?
22	Q. It's next to Mr. Marc Eichenbaum's e-mail.
23	A. I know he was assigned to the homeless
24	initiatives, so maybe.



It's okay.

Q.

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	Fage 1
1	A. I'm not sure.
2	Q. Yeah. So can you turn to the back page which
3	is COH-084927. In the middle of the page, there's an
4	e-mail that's from Andy Icken to Mayor Turner,
5	Marvalette Hunter, Marc Eichenbaum, and James Koski.
6	Do you see that?
7	A. I do.
8	Q. And this e-mail was sent on August 11th, 2021.
9	It says "Mayor, after our call this afternoon, James"
10	and I "James, Marc, and I got together to be sure we
11	focus on possible feeding sites that met the criteria we
12	discussed."
13	Do you know what criteria they discussed?
14	A. I do not.
15	Q. Is the criteria they discussed written
16	anywhere?
17	A. I do not know.
18	Q. But sitting here today, you don't know what
19	criteria Mr. Icken was referring to?
20	A. No.
21	Q. And then he continues "We plan on focusing on
22	three different sites that potentially meet the needs:
23	1. St. John's/ Pastor Rudy."



Who is Pastor Rudy?

I do not know him.

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October 12, 2021?

	Page 1
1	Q. Does he run or direct the Bread of Life
2	organization?
3	A. That sounds familiar. Quite possibly, but I do
4	not know for sure.
5	Q. Where is St. John/Pastor Rudy's facilities?
6	A. Based on this e-mail, I would say the southeast
7	quadrant of central business district just south of the
8	Pierce Elevated.
9	Q. So the next is municipal courthouse area. And
10	then there is a and then so the municipal
11	courthouse area is would include 61 Riesner Street?
12	A. Yes sorry.
13	Q. 61 Riesner Street is in the municipal
14	courthouse area?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. And if you can look at the last sentence, it
17	says "The challenge will be the perception it is 'out of
18	sight.'"
19	Did I read that correctly?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. So can you turn back to the first page? This
22	is and then at the bottom of the first page, there is
23	an e-mail from Marvalette Hunter.
24	Do you see that, that she sent on



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Q. Ms. Hunter writes "My recommendation is the Municipal Courthouse Area No. 2. It has already been assessed and is functionally appropriate. Being out of sight should not be a determinate of an appropriate location."

Do you see that?

- A. I do.
- Q. Does the City agree that in approving charitable food service events it does not take into account whether a location is "out of sight"?

MR. SOH: Objection; form.

Go ahead and answer if you can.

MR. FIFE: Yeah, let me restart that

Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Here, Ms. Marvalette says that a location "being out of sight should not be a determinate of an appropriate location" in reference to charitable food service events, right?

Right?

A. Yes.

actually.

Q. And here, being out of sight, would mean away from public view?

MR. SOH: Objection; form.

Q. (BY MR. FIFE) What does being out of sight



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mean to you?

A. Well, I'm not sure because I work in this complex and it's not out of sight. So I'm not exactly sure what they're referring to. I mean, you've got the courthouse next door that's open until 10:00 p.m.

You've got I-45 that runs right next to it. And if you're on it anytime between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., you're going 20 miles an hour and you can look over into the parking lot and see the feeding occurring.

MR. SOH: I would object that 20 miles an hour is a gross exaggeration of the speed limit of the Pierce Elevated at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

- A. I'm just not sure what they're getting at as far as it being out of sight.
- Q. (BY MR. FIFE) Okay. Yeah, so I think the core of what I'm trying to get at is just in deciding whether to approve a location for charitable food service activities. Does the City consider whether it is -- it will be viewed by the public?
- A. Apparently not. I don't think it's something where it's -- either way where location is determined because it is -- you know, there is people that are going to see it versus a location where a lot of people will see it. So I think either way that is not used as a determinate to identify a location.



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Q. Yeah, whether a lot of people will see it or not --

A. Correct.

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- Q. -- does not matter to whether the City will approve the location?
- A. Right. Because I don't think that affects the ability of an organization to provide food if other people can see it or not or the number of people who can see it.
- Q. So we've discussed previously that the City began posting notices about 61 Riesner in February of 2023?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. How -- and you said earlier that you talked Sergeant Simon about the posting of the signs?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. What did you ask him?
- A. I asked him if he knew who posted them. He didn't know. I have an e-mail -- I saw an e-mail at one point from Andy Icken saying that the signs would be posted February 20th. I'm assuming it's just the City's general service department that posted them because they are the ones that are responsible for that type of activity. I was just curious if he knew, you know, who posted them.



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Jennifer Kennedy

1 But then February of 2023 is when the City made 2. a concerted effort to move all Central Library feedings to 61 Riesner? 3 4 Yes. Α. 5 Q. Okay. Well, March 1st. 6 Α. 7 March 1st was when the citations began? 0. March 1st is when the enforcement began. 8 Α. 9 Yeah. That was when the first citation was O. 10 issued? 11 Α. Yes. 12 Q. Okay. 13 MR. FIFE: Should we break for ten minutes? 14 MR. SOH: Sure. 15 (Recess from 2:22 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.) 16 THE REPORTER: Back on the record at 2:35. 17 (BY MR. FIFE) So we were just discussing Q. 18 61 Riesner Street, and I'm going to mark this as 19 Exhibit 28. 20 (Exhibit No. 28 was marked.) 21 (BY MR. FIFE) This is a -- appears to be a 0. 22 Google Maps image produced to us during discovery and 23 is -- has Bates stamp COH_067224. Now, would you say 24 that this is a fair and accurate depiction of the 25 municipal court area?



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A. Minus several trees that have since died.

- Q. Okay. So currently there are fewer trees?
- A. Currently there are fewer trees, but everything else looks accurate.
- Q. Okay. And it's a little hard to read. But do you see in red on the lower right-hand -- or lower right side of the page it says "Homeless feeding area" in red font?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And it appears to -- the homeless feeding area prepares -- appears to begin at the intersection of Lubbock Street and Artesian Place?
- A. So the feeding actually takes place in this small parking lot that is really sandwiched between Lubbock, Riesner, and Artesian.
- Q. Could you mark that on your map with a star?
 So that's slightly to the left of the red font, homeless feeding area?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. What is that building adjacent to Lubbock Street directly in front of the homeless feeding area?
 - A. 61 Riesner.
- Q. And that building is a Houston Police Department building, right?
 - A. It is not occupied by the police department



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1	anymore. It is it used to be the Central Patrol
2	Division building. I believe after it got flooded from
3	Harvey, we is when we discontinued using it. There
4	is a general services department group that uses part of
5	that building. But I think it's more on the north end
6	that is utilized.
7	Q. Outside and general services, is that
8	general services for HPD or
9	A. City of Houston.
10	Q. City of Houston? Okay.
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. Are there any other city functions or
13	departments that operate out of 61 Riesner Street?
14	A. I don't believe so.
15	Q. It was the old Central Patrol Division
16	building?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. And then to the left of that building, there's
19	a municipal courthouse?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And that is the municipal courthouse where Food Not Bombs volunteers would go to take care of their tickets or contest there citations for violating the charitable food service ordinance?
 - A. If that's where their court was. There's



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several different municipal courts across the city.

This is the central courthouse; so I'm not sure where their docket was.

- Q. Yeah. And on Exhibit 28 itself at the top, it says 60- -- the 61 Riesner Street in (HPD headquarters). It sounds like you would disagree with that characterization?
 - A. Yes. HPD headquarters is 1200 Travis.
 - Q. Okay. And was it ever HPD headquarters?
- A. Not since I've been on the department for the past 17 years. Now, before that, I'm not sure.
- Q. Okay. Prior to the City designating 61 Riesner Street as an authorized location for charitable food service events, so before it was approved for charitable feedings, did 61 Riesner Street have porta potties?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Did it have free parking?
- A. No.
- Q. Did it have a shipping container for storage?
 - A. Not for this use but --
 - O. Not for charitable food service events?
 - A. It did not.
- Q. Did it have tables designed for individuals to eat food off of?
 - A. No.



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Α.

Yes.

1	Q. Did it have dumpsters designed for charitable
2	food service providers to discard waste?
3	A. No. We had dumpsters. But obviously before
4	the feeding was there, it wasn't purposed for feeding.
5	Q. Yeah, it was for whatever was happening inside
6	the building, right?
7	A. Correct.
8	Q. So the City added all those elements to
9	61 Riesner once it decided to designate it as the
10	exclusive charitable food service location?
11	A. Yes.
12	Q. So after March 1st, 2023, through the present,
13	do you know how many groups signed up to serve food at
14	61 Riesner?
15	A. I don't know how any groups have signed up. I
16	know that the list of recognized charitable food
17	providers, I believe, is at 199.
18	Q. Could groups serve at or can actually,
19	let me ask you this question.
20	Is 61 Riesner Street still approved for
21	charitable food service events?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. And so from March 1st, 2023, until now, can
24	groups sign up to serve food at the same time?



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Q.	Practically,	how	does th	nat	work?	Do	they	work
together	to prepare f	ood 1	together	. 01	<u>-</u> ?			

A. So ideally, they would choose a date that is -somebody is not already feeding on in order to maximize
our ability to feed throughout the entire week. But we
are not going to say no to an organization.

So if an organization says I would like to feed at this day on this time, we look at the calendar, and if there's already somebody else for that date and that time, then we just let them know they have to coordinate, you know.

- Q. Yeah.
- A. So you're both going to be out there feeding.
- Q. And has the City received complaints from groups who were scheduled at the same time?
 - A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. And when a charitable food service event is happening at 61 Riesner, are there always uniformed police officers there?
 - A. Yes, if they let us know about it.
- Q. Okay. And so when a group conducts a food service event at 61 Riesner Street, do they -- is there a sanitation person on-site who's inspecting the food?
 - A. No.
 - Q. And so the officers aren't inspecting the food?



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A. No. I mean, the officers are empowered to
enforce anything from the health and safety code. So is
they see some sort of egregious violation, you know,
then they're empowered to address it. I'm not aware of
any instance where that's occurred.

- Q. And, yeah, that makes sense. I think my question is a little bit more simpler than that. There is no city employees at 61 Riesner food service events proactively checking the food?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. To serve food at 61 Riesner Street, does a group have to be a registered charitable food service provider?
 - A. No.
- Q. And that's because the recognized provider program is voluntary?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. So a group could serve food at 61 Riesner without taking the food safety course?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And they could serve food at 61 Riesner Street without having a certificate from the City saying they're a recognized charitable food service provider?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. So does the City -- so let's just say across



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the last six months, on most days, is there someone providing food at 61 Riesner Street?

- A. Of the majority of the days, yes. I believe there's at least four days that are generally covered. I'd have to look at the schedule to confirm.
- Q. Well, so I guess I'm glad you brought that up which is -- are you familiar with the City's Dinner to Home Program?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And that was a contract awarded to Bread of
 Life where the City was paying Bread of Life to provide
 charitable food services at 61 Riesner Street?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And do you know when the City's contract with Bread of Life began?
- A. I believe it was November of -- I want to say 2022.
- Q. And so under that -- did Bread of Life serve food at 61 Riesner Street before the City was paying -- had a contract with Bread of Life?
- A. I'm not sure as far as the timeline. I know that they were the vendor who won the bidding process to be awarded the HRPA funds for the Dinner to Home Program.
 - Q. And do you know what days they were asked to



1	COUNTY OF HARRIS)
2	STATE OF TEXAS)
3	
4	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
5	
6	I, Donna Qualls, Notary Public in and for the State
7	of Texas, Notary ID No. 12161359, hereby certify that
8	this transcript is a true record of the testimony given
9	and that the witness was duly sworn by the notary.
10	I further certify that I am neither attorney nor
11	counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the
12	parties to the action in which this testimony was taken.
13	Further, I am not a relative or employee of any
14	attorney of record in this cause, nor do I have a
15	financial interest in the action.
16	Subscribed and sworn to on this the 26th day of
17	February, 2025.
18	Ω
19	Romacijas
20	DONNA QUALLS Notary Public in and for
21	The State of Texas, Notary ID 12161359 My Commission expires 11/06/2026
22	
23	Magna Legal Services Firm Registration No. 633
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